NEW SERIES.

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THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The thanks of the Committee are presented to Mrs. Reade, for her usual monthly parcel of new clothing; and to the Hon. Mrs. Gore, for large parcel of new flannel clothing, containing ten dozen articles.

To Managers and Superintendents of Ragged Schools.

Honest, Truthful Lads, from 14 to 17 years of age,

ABLE TO READ AND WRITE A LITTLE,

CAN OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT AT ONCE

IN THE CITY MESSENGER BRIGADE.

Gentlemen connected with Ragged Schools, and interested in the welfare of special cases coming under the above description, will please desire the Lads to call with one or both parents any evening between 8 and 9 o'clock, at Hope Place Mission Schools, World's End, Bull Lane, Stepney.

Enquiry should be made for Mr. J. Hawkins, the Inspector of City Messenger Brigade.

J. E. EAREE,

BREAKFAST AND TEA CONTRACTOR

127, HACKNEY ROAD, NEAR SHOREDITCH CHURCH.

J. E. E. respectfully begs to inform the Clergy, Superintendents of Schools, and others who are in the practice of commemorating their Anniversaries, &c., by Public Breakfasts and Tea Meetings, that he has every requisite for such occasions, comprising Tables, Coppers, and China to any extent, in a superior style, at extremely moderate charges.

J. E. E. tenders his sincere thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have hitherto favoured him with their kind patronage, and hopes by strict attention to ensure a continuance of the same; he also begs most respectfully to solicit the favour of their recommendation.

Rout Seats on Reasonable Terms. Vans, and every requisite for Excursion Parties, with the entire Management, taken by Contract.

COMMUNICATIONS BY POST IMMEDIATELY ATTENDED TO.

References are kindly permitted to be made to the Secretaries of the Ragged School Union and the Temperance League.

Friendless and Fallen.

London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution.

Notwithstanding the great increase in the cost of all household necessaries, coals, &c., the Committee did not restrict their operations in any way during 1873.

SUMMARY.

To Open-all-Night Refuge, 891 admitted in 1873.
To Preventive Homes, 112 ditto.
To Reformatory Homes, 304 ditto.
Income, 1872, £5,924; income, 1873, £5,614; decrease, 1873, £310.
Increased expenses of Homes in 1873, £232.
£12 10s. (Donation of) will sustain all the Homes one day.

Reader, Messrs. Bosanquet, Salt, & Co., Bankers, 73, Lombard Street, E.C., and Francis Nicholls, Esq. (of the Committee), 14, Old Jewry Chambers, E.C., will thankfully receive CONTRIBUTIONS; or

EDWARD W. THOMAS, Secretary,
200, Euston Road, N.W.

HERTFORD RAGGED SCHOOL
AND
CHILDREN'S MISSION.

The building at present used has become altogether inadequate to the requirements of the Mission, and the Committee are desirous of enlarging it. Part of the required sum, viz., £100, has been subscribed, but the Committee cannot proceed to the work, as they are resolved not to contract future anxiety by incurring a debt; they therefore earnestly and respectfully solicit Donations for the above-named object, which will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Sec., George Armatage, Bank, Hertford.

SPECIAL WORK:

RAGGED SCHOOLS OF TWENTY YEARS' STANDING.

THE beauty of a park springs as much from the variety as from the grouping of its trees. Yet every park is so noted for one species that when we remember our visit one tree is always identified with it. Thus, Windsor is noted for its regal oaks; Burnham for its noble beeches; Richmond for its aged cedars of Lebanon; and Bushy for its grand avenue of chestnuts.

The same feature is conspicuous in every large Ragged School. Though all were founded with the same object, and most employ similar machinery, yet each has some distinctive agency, which is *the* feature of the school, and so marks it out from neighbouring institutions. It is this diversity in unity which makes each Ragged School a world in itself, and which serves to meet the special spiritual claims of those whom the workers strive to socialise and to save.

It follows from this striking fact that those who regard every Ragged School as a mere copy of the bulk, fall into a grievous error. The mere fact that the external aspect of each Ragged School quarter differs in some respect from the remaining, necessitates special agencies if its peculiar wants are ever to be reached. Thus, for example, the Mint is noted for its lodging-houses for travellers, Kent Street is the harbour of thieves, Golden Lane is the head-quarters of costermongers, Paddington has a large population of persons who are employed in dust yards or on canals, Kensal Green is a very hive of laundresses, and Notting Dale is noted for the number of gipsies who pitch their tents there. It is thus seen that though the spiritual agencies common to all Ragged Schools are needed in every district, yet that *special* agencies suggested by their exigencies are demanded. Nor have Ragged School teachers been slow either in discerning this fact, or in applying the specific remedy. They have met these claims to the best of their ability, and this accounts not only for the diversity of our united operations, but for the success which has accompanied our movement from the very outset.

This prominence of one feature in every Ragged School will be

better seen if we refer to the leading operations of ten large Ragged Schools. Each of these has been in action above twenty years, and not one shows any sign of that decay which is so often incident to age.

1. CHURCH PLACE, Paddington, has for many years conducted an Infants' Nursery. Many of the mothers are employed in dust-yards, or are the wives of canal boatmen. As they are all necessarily engaged in some out-door work, this nursery is a boon to a hard-working and deserving class, for they have too much confidence in the matron to be anxious about the safety of their babes.

2. FIELD LANE, Farringdon Road. For twenty-three years this institution has included a Night Refuge for homeless men and women. Since the casual wards were reformed, the numbers have been much reduced, and the Night Refuge is now strictly confined to persons who, though of good character, have, through folly or misfortune, become homeless. They all attend the Ragged Church, and Sunday and week night Bible Classes; and not a few date their conversion to these means of grace. Nearly 600 persons were admitted last year, most of whom left for some kind of employment.

3. GEORGE YARD, Whitechapel. Not contented with holding Divine Services in the building, the teachers regularly visit the "lodging houses for travellers" in the locality, and declare the Gospel of the grace of God. Many striking cases of conversion have resulted from their earnest evangelism; many of the evangelists being labouring men.

4. KINGSLAND. This institution is noted for its "Service of Song." As popular with the parents as with the scholars, it has proved to be a great social lever. A Biblical subject is selected, connected readings are given, and hymns appropriate to the topic are sung by the youthful choir.

5. LAMB AND FLAG, Clerkenwell. This school has erected a large tent, capable of holding 600 persons, on a waste piece of ground in Farringdon Road. In this tent Gospel Services are held on Sundays and week nights, one evening being devoted to children. It attracts many stragglers, some of whom have been won for Jesus.

6. OGLE MEWS, Portland Place. In order to counteract the evil influences of those thieves' serials which circulate by hundreds

of thousands in the byways of London, this Ragged School has established a "Pure Literature Society." Like that in Nichol Street, Bethnal Green, it has been signally successful.

7. QUEEN'S SQUARE, Westminster. For above twenty-one years a large Fathers' Meeting has been conducted here. It includes a Sick Fund, a Loan Society, and a Burial Club. The men manage its affairs, and manage them well.

8. RICHMOND STREET, Maida Hill. Many homeless lads when they enter the labour market find it difficult to pay the large rent demanded. To meet these cases the institution has annexed a lodging house to its Refuge department. The inmates pay a small sum weekly for a bed and the use of the kitchen. Not the least of its benefits is that they are kept under moral and religious supervision at a most critical age.

9. ST. GILES. This institution holds a "Youth's Club," which serves to keep lads beyond the usual school age under the teacher's eye. They have the use of a good library, and classes are held and lectures given.

10. NEW TOTHILL STREET, Westminster. This Ragged School first tried the experiment, under medical auspices, of giving a good meat dinner to the scholars once weekly. So obvious was the improvement in their physical condition, that the "Destitute Children's Dinner Society" was founded by its promoters, and last year thirty-four Ragged Schools followed the example thus set.

This list of almost unique operations might be considerably enlarged did we include Ragged Schools which have not yet come of age, but which have passed their fifteenth year. Among these are the Barrow Club, of Perkins' Rents, the Donkey Club, of Golden Lane, and the Coal Club, of Portobello Lane, all of which, though of recent growth, are doing much to teach the poor how to help themselves. But we think that sufficient has been indicated to show how fertile Ragged School teachers have been in devising schemes for the social and spiritual welfare of the classes amongst whom God has called them to labour.

Yet, after all, the operations selected for notice are but one out of the many carried on in these schools. Most, indeed, of the Ragged Schools named conduct above twenty such agencies, all marked by that wisdom—might we not say that sanctified common sense?—which adapts fitting means to the end in view. Well,

then, might the "London Mirror," in its notice of the thirtieth annual report of the Central Society, say, "It will be seen that the Union is not inactive or faint-hearted under the blow which the Ragged School system, so far at least as its day schools are concerned, has suffered at the hands of State-supported schools!"

Would it not, then, be a sad day—we will not say for London, but for England at large—if agencies like these were allowed to collapse? Yet the preservation of Ragged Schools hinges on two points, namely, adequate funds, and not the least on those earnest workers whose lives declare "the love of Christ constraineth us." That both will be forthcoming, notwithstanding the shadows now cast over our mission, we doubt not. For the work is God's, and not ours; and He has never given a work without first anointing the workers.

BARCELONA MISSION SCHOOLS.

In no country is the need of the Gospel more felt than in Spain. The work of the Inquisition for 400 years has left too plainly its mark on the nation; for poverty, ignorance, and cruelty are seen everywhere. To be the means of bringing some Gospel light into this dark land has been the earnest desire of English and other Christians, and many have been the noble efforts made to circulate the Scriptures, and found Ragged Schools, with the more palatable name to the proud Spaniard, of Mission Schools.

Long before the persecuting days had ended, Mr. Lawrence was at work in Spain, secretly distributing Testaments and portions. His plan was to lay the books about public gardens, &c., and then watch those persons who picked them up. If he saw a desire to read the same, he spoke the word of Jesus. In spite of every precaution, the priests were alarmed, and after some delay his arrest was ordered. He left the town two hours before the officers came to his lodgings, and escaping to England, was, in his absence, sentenced to nine years' imprisonment. Returning to Spain after the deposition of Isabella, Mr. Lawrence, with the aid of Mr. Hawkes and the Trinitarian Bible Society, was enabled to journey with a Bible-coach over a considerable portion of Spain, selling and giving away innumerable Scriptures and portions.

While journeying near that great city, Barcelona, Mr. Lawrence was led to mourn over the lost condition of its thousands. Settling down, he commenced Sabbath and free Day Schools, causing the children

to learn the structure and text of the Bible. This course was advisable, as none could tell how soon the Book might be again torn from their hands; but the brethren knew none could tear the Word from their hearts.

The Sabbath Schools, now five in number, are well worked, mainly by those young friends who, being converted, have shown their loving gratitude to the Master by using every means of bringing others in the way. About seven hundred children attend. The Day Schools are supported mainly by Mr. Muller, of Bristol, and their importance cannot be overlooked, as education is difficult for the poor to obtain, and many parents have been won over to the "new religion" by this means. In the late Intransigente rising, a priest incited the mob to burn out "the nest of heretics." But God protected his servants by means of these rude men refusing to destroy the authors of their children's happiness.

An interesting auxiliary has been introduced in the form of a printing-press. This prints school-books, two religious papers—a weekly and monthly. A Bible Society has also sanctioned the printing of two Bibles at their expense. The value of this machine can only be appreciated by those who are acquainted with the circumstances of this Mission. There are many youths who, for every reason, should be kept under Gospel influences. With the aid of proper masters, these youths have proved apt scholars in the art of printing, and are now in a position to get their own living while advancing the interests of the Mission.

Results from this course are not wanting. Children go home and repeat the stories of Holy Writ to friends who cannot read. One little girl told her grandmother "all about Jesus," until the old woman was converted. She shortly after summoned a number of the children to sing around her bed. While listening to the infant praises, the aged disciple joined in the eternal song of the Lamb! Amongst others brought into the fold was a blind man, who has become a very fine and earnest preacher. Another man, also blind, spends his entire time reading from a raised copy the Gospel of John, to the crowd. Not long since, for refusing to move, our brother found himself in the same condition as Paul and Silas; but he spent his time likewise in praising, and followed this by holding up the Lord to the other prisoners. Speedy release came, with a reprimand to his zealous persecutor.

Near this reading ground stands the Bible-coach, and often (especially on feast-days) one sees a deal of interesting business. A boy, carefully kept from the religion of Christ by a cruel master, nevertheless contrived to buy a Testament from this coach; and when

afterwards admitted to the Mission-house, was found to know by heart the greater part of its contents.

Our brethren ask for the prayers of British Christians. Shall they ask in vain?

THE RAGGED SCHOLAR IN INDIA.

THE master of Brunswick Street Ragged School writes:—

"I enclose you a letter from one of my scholars, now a soldier in India. This is the fourth letter from him; the first is an account of of his conversion."

The letter unrevised is as follows:—

"I received your kind and welcome letter yesterday, and I am very glad to hear that you are quite well. I am still at Lucknow. When I wrote to my sister I was on detachment with thirty men and an officer, guarding a fort for five weeks; but we have returned to the regiment. It was trying and difficult. There was nothing but card-playing and gambling all the time I was there, but thanks be to Almighty God He did in His great mercy and loving-kindness preserve me from all the evils which I was surrounded with. I used to walk five miles to church, and five miles back every Sunday. I had permission from my officer to do so.

Dear sir, I am glad to hear that the Christians at home are helping the natives of this country. It would be a sad thing if the famine last very long, for it may lead to a mutiny amongst them. It is very hot here; we have the natives to fan us day and night to keep us cool. It is exceedingly hot; we have the native boys to throw water against our barrack rooms to keep them cool. If the people in happy England knew the heat which their countrymen-soldiers have to bear, they would be more love shown towards them when at home. I believe, sir, that the Admiralty at the War Office are trying to keep regiments in India five years instead of ten years. If so, I shall, please God to spare me, be at home in the year 1878. I think, myself, at five years is long enough here. I am glad to inform you that our men of the regiment are generally in better health this season than they had last.

I will now, sir, give you a brief sketch of India. The provisions in India are very cheap; we can get good mutton at three half-pence per pound, and beef at five farthings per pound. There are abundance of fruit very cheap; some things are dear. Most part of the natives live on rice and water and grain, or rather corn in its raw state. They work all day for twopence-farthing. It is very little for the poor creatures, but I believe they brought it on themselves in the mutiny in 1857. They will not eat the bread and meat which we eat,

for it would break their cast, or religion; and if they were to do so they would be disowned by their families.

I am glad to inform you that the missionaries are doing great good out here. We have some Christian native soldiers attend our church, but they have to put up with a great deal of reproach from their comrades. It is very pleasing to see numbers of native children going to the Missionary Hall to hear of our Saviour. I am to inform you, sir, that we have started a temperance society in our regiment. We have about 200 men belonging to it. We have collected 200 rupees to raise a coffee shop, so as to draw men away from the canteen. I think it will prosper, for I can see the fruits of it already, for there are great numbers of our men attend divine service. I am glad to inform you that I am growing in grace. I can see every day, through the help of the Holy Spirit to see the wickedness of my heart, I am thankful to Almighty God that He has kept me firm, and I believe He will until the coming of our Lord. Lord grant that we may be found ready to meet Him at that great day. I am glad to inform you that the Lord has raised up many Christian friends for me in this strange country. Glory be to His holy name for His loving-kindness towards me. What am I that He should have such mercy upon me? When I think how I was living in open rebellion against Him, what mercy that he should call me unto Himself! But I am not deserving of the least of His mercy, for if the Lord had dealt with me according to my sins, I should be now where hope never cometh; but, glory to His holy name, He has spared to live for repentance. Oh, that I may employ the remainder of my time upon this earth to His glory. I am glad to hear that Mr. Ware is quite well; please to give my kind love to him, thanking him for his kindness, which he ever showed towards me when I was at school. You say, sir, that you wish you had me at school. I also wish myself at home too, but I am contented to remain in India if it is the Lord's will that I should. I am sorry to hear that the School Board has affected the Ragged Schools; but as you say, we must look unto the Lord for help.

Give my kind respects to Mrs. Berrington, hoping she is quite well; and to all the old school mates mine. I expect there will be a great change of things by the time I come home to happy England, if it is the will of the Almighty to spare me to see you again; if not, I hope and trust through what my Saviour has done that we may meet around His throne in heaven. What a happy meeting that will be when we shall be able to serve him without being persecuted. I must now conclude. With kind and sincere love to you, I remain your scholar and brother in Christ. Good bye, and may the Lord bless us."

Lucknow, Bengal, April 27th, 1874. E. D., 40th Regiment.

HOMES FOR WORKING BOYS.

It is nearly four years since the Committee opened their first two Homes for Working Boys, the City one being in Spital Square, Bishopsgate, and the West End Home, Stafford Street, Edgware Road. The condition of the thousands of working boys in London—errand boys, shop boys, out-door apprentices, and the like—is such as to call forth our active sympathy. Many of them, it is true, have poor but respectable parents, who still find them a home, and are content to merge their small wages in the family's earnings, and "to keep" the boys as best they can. But even this scant provision is denied to a very large number. There are the boys whose parents are dead; those whose parents have deserted them, or left them to shift for themselves; and those who have strolled up to London in the hope of improving their condition. And then there are those boys who, from whatever cause, have been placed in our various Industrial Institutions, and who, almost without exception, have no home when they go out into the world and begin to work for their own livelihood. Such boys as these may be counted by thousands in London, and for them no public provision is made, except in the common lodging-houses. What is likely to be the moral effect of these places upon boys left to do as they like is not difficult to imagine. The opinion even of vagrants and convicted thieves is, "Do what you can to rescue these boys from the common lodging houses."

The Homes for Working Boys have been established to receive such lads as those described, who are in situations, and earning wages, but have no homes. Some earn sufficient to feed and clothe themselves, for others help has to be obtained from friends to enable them to do this. But upon the Committee of the Homes necessarily devolves the rent of the buildings, and the cost of supervision. The boys get a good, plain, airy, comfortable home; while there is exercised over them that moral control without which it is scarcely to be expected they will keep from evil associates, and from contaminating amusements. Provision is also made, by means of reading-rooms, class-rooms, gymnasiums, &c., for healthy recreation and mental improvement. Above all there is brought to bear upon them the influence of religion; and at family prayers and by Bible Classes they are pointed to the Saviour, who came to seek and to save those which are lost, and are taught how little "it profiteth a man, if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul."

Many of these boys have never known the blessings of a home. A few may have enjoyed its comforts in early childhood before the shattered health, profligate conduct, or premature death of their

parents, brought ruin upon the family. Some having been trained in various Ragged or Industrial Schools and Refuges, have now arrived at an age when they must go out into the world, and with the small wages, the high price of food and lodging in London, they must, if left to themselves, go to the low lodging-houses, where, herded with the worst class of society, they are too often quickly and irreparably ruined.

To prevent this, to find them a healthy, quiet, and uncontaminating dwelling-place, much-needed instruction, wholesome amusement and recreation, and above all, to seek to form in them Christian habits and principles, and lead them to the Saviour of sinners, these Homes open their doors to receive them.

An attempt was at one time made to permit the boys to spend their money as they saw fit, and wholly to provide themselves with food, either in or out of the Homes. It was hoped that such a training would teach them the value of money, and help them in the exercise of self-control. After a period of trial this plan was found to interfere with the discipline of the Homes, and to be injurious both to the physical health and the moral improvement of the inmates. This led to the present arrangement being made, by which the boys are required to pay 4s. 6d. a week for their food. In addition to this, those earning 6s. per week, or under, pay 1s. for lodging, and those earning more pay 2d. out of each additional shilling.

A few cases of boys admitted to the Homes will perhaps show their usefulness. 1. A lad whose father was dead, and whose mother was a confirmed drunkard, continually taking away his wages, and ill-treating him, was taken into the Shoeblack Brigade, and working steadily was passed on to the Home, from which he soon found constant employment. 2. A boy was received from Queen Street Refuge soon after the Homes were opened. He worked very steadily for some two years as an errand boy, gaining the confidence and esteem of his employer, and is now apprenticed to a carpenter, with every prospect of growing up a useful and respectable man. 3. A lad came from a town on the south coast to try to find work in London. This he obtained, and hearing of our Homes, applied for admission. He was received, and, with his distant friends, seems highly to appreciate the benefits of the institution. 4. Another boy was found by one of the Committee in great distress. His mother had sent him from New York to a brother-in-law in Germany, who had promised to receive him. This, however, he refused to do when the lad made his appearance, and he was turned adrift. The German police sent him to London, where he was found and brought into the West End Home. Work was found him and he went on very steadily. His

mother, however, after he had been with us a few months, was enabled to send him his passage home, and he returned to New York.

The Committee report that they have been able to avail themselves of the generous offer of Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., to furnish a third Home, and pay the rent for four years. For this purpose they have taken 15, Bath Terrace, Trinity Square, Southwark, which will henceforth be known as the Borough Home. Being situated in the midst of a densely populated neighbourhood, containing several warehouses and manufactories, the Committee believe it will soon have its full complement of working boys.

It may be stated that the Ragged Schools in Richmond Street, Maida Hill, and Exeter Buildings, Chelsea, have tried the same experiment, but on a more limited scale. They have done so much good to a needy class who are doing their best to help themselves, that we cannot but recommend these Homes to the support of the public, for their object is "to help those who help themselves," by providing homes in the various districts of the Metropolis for homeless working boys who are earnestly endeavouring to gain an honest living; and at the same time to surround them with Christian influences and friendly guidance at the most critical period of their lives.

SCHOOL AGENT'S WORK.—No. 1.

WEST AND SOUTH.

FROM Mr. Hytche's Twentieth Annual Report we make the following extracts, to show the state of the Schools under his visitation.

In the Western and Southern Divisions there are seventy institutions.

Last year I paid the following

VISITS.

Sunday Schools, 75; Day Schools, 268; Night Schools, 134; Special Business and Conferences, 94; Local Committees, 7; Public and Various Meetings, 13; Parents' Meetings, 12. Total, 603.

It is satisfactory to find that the local friends have not relaxed in their arduous work. This will be seen by the following 41 extensions:—viz., 6 Sunday Schools, 4 Day Schools, 5 Night Schools, 3 Industrial Classes, 2 Psalmody Classes, 1 Penny Bank, 3 Clothing Clubs, 4 Bands of Hope, 3 Parents' Meetings, 3 Children's Churches, 1 Boys' Lodging House, and 6 Ragged Churches.

As giving a clue to what is being done for the welfare of children and adults in my districts, I give the following summary of last year's operations:—

I.—RELIGIOUS.

Sunday Schools, 105; Senior Bible Classes, 29; Children's Churches,

21; Ragged Churches, 40; Sunday School Libraries, 35; Sunday Rest Bands, 3. Total, 333.

II.—SECULAR.

Day Schools, 49; Night Schools, 58; Boys' Industrial Classes, 7; Girls' do., 35. Total, 149.

III.—SOCIAL.

Penny Banks, 37; Clothing Clubs, 26; Men's Clubs, &c., 6; Mothers' Meetings, 26; Bands of Hope, 17; Boys' Lodging Houses, 2; Pure Literature Societies, 2; Psalmody Classes, 7; Dorcas Societies, 5; Coal Clubs, 5; Infant Nursery, 1. Total, 134.

These figures show that 516 operations were carried on last year, 367 of which were either social or missionary.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

are conducted by sixty-one institutions. In addition, ordinary Sunday Schools are conducted in three rooms, the use of which is granted on week nights for Ragged School purposes.

Twenty-four meet on Sunday morning, with an average attendance of 1,310, or an average of 54. Forty-five meet in the afternoon, with an attendance of 4,727, or an average of 105. The thirty-six which assemble in the evening attract 6,000, or an average of 166.

Last year, the Schools in Portland Town, Portobello Road, and Newport Street were opened on Sunday morning, the united attendance being 170.

For nearly eighteen years I endeavoured to get Price Street opened on some part of the Lord's day, but the committee always objected. As, however, the old committee collapsed in June, 1873, a new one was formed, who at once cordially responded to my suggestion. This School is now opened on Sunday evenings, when 90 elder boys and girls regularly attend.

The number of teachers enrolled is 1,081, of whom 797 attend at least once on the Lord's day. The average attendance compares favourably with that of 1870. Then, with 1,018 enrolled, 316 were always absent; but now, with 1,081 teachers, the absentees are reduced to 284.

The order of the bulk of Sunday Schools is all that can be desired. The separation of infants from elder scholars during the past few years has much tended to this result. This should always be done where practicable. Already 23 Sunday Schools have infants' rooms. They are all so well managed, that no part of my Sunday visitation affords more pleasure than to notice the *life* and affection of these lambs of Jesus.

The *Senior Bible Classes* tend to promote the attendance and interest of a class who, from age or surroundings, it is not easy to retain. But, when they are so attracted, they repay the teachers for all their arduous labours. There are 24 of such classes, with an aggregate membership of 350.

Such classes ought to be conducted in separate rooms; but where this is not practicable, a corner of the schoolroom should be devoted to

that purpose, and be separated from the other classes by dwarf wooden screens, veiled by curtains. Twelve classes now meet in separate rooms.

There are many good points in our Sunday Schools—such as earnestness, private speaking and prayer, and direct efforts at conversion. But there are two defects which require notice, as in many cases they neutralise much of the instruction. 1*st*. There is a growing tendency to question the class *en masse*, instead of individually. When questioned in a body, most answer readily, and that correctly; but when the same questions are put *individually* it is striking to find how wide the answers are of the mark. 2*nd*. *Non*-preparation. Some teachers are models in this respect. For, though they do not bring with them the notes of their lessons, it is obvious what a store of facts and illustrations they have to interest their classes. Others, however, do not appear even to know what their subject is to be, and so are seen turning over the leaves of their Bibles in hap-hazard search of a topic.

A notice of our Sunday work would be incomplete without a reference to our *Children's Churches*—services which do for children what the regular forms of public worship do for adults. Of these there are 21, with an average attendance of 1,250.

Thirty-five Sunday Schools statedly conduct *Prayer Meetings*. Newport Street, Snow's Fields, and Burdett Street hold such meetings, both before the commencement and at the close of the School.

Libraries are attached to 35 Sunday Schools, with about 6,000 volumes. They are invariably used as incentives to good conduct, and to regular and punctual attendance at the Sunday School.

Day Schools.

The secular Day Schools are divisible into 7 Boys', 7 Girls', 28 Mixed, and 7 Infants' Schools, making 49 distinct Schools. The number registered is about 7,000. Of these, 5,051 were present at my annual examinations. These Day Schools are taught by 56 paid teachers who are aided by 150 paid monitors. At some, ladies take classes once or twice weekly.

During the past year *Butler's Place* Day School was re-opened and reorganised. From one of the worst, it has become one of the best Day Schools.

One of the oldest Night Schools in the south of London, *White Hart Court*, was last year opened as a Day School. A grant of £100 for that purpose was given by the trustees of the Townshend Fund, through Baroness Burdett Coutts. The attendance is 90.

Of these Day Schools, 13 are included in the list of "Efficient Schools" issued by the School Board; and their Report states that four more passed in "Instruction," but failed as regards the buildings.

Last year the following Day Schools were improved in various respects:—

Ives Street.—A master for the boys has been engaged. A large section of the room has been portioned off by thick curtains for his use. *Lancaster*

Street.—The attainments of the scholars have much improved under a new and experienced teacher. *Bridge Street*, which was closed on Wednesday afternoon to accommodate the Mothers' Meeting, is now open all day. This has tended still further to improve a School which is included in the School Board list of "Efficient Schools." *Perkins' Rents.*—The infants' gallery is reached by a staircase. It is separated from the girls' school by a movable partition. The skylight roof was too low pitched. This has been much raised, to the physical benefit of the scholars. *Grotto Passage.*—Four regulation writing desks have been supplied, as well as an abundance of school material. *Horseferry Road.*—The roof has been repaired. A stone staircase has been built, and other needed improvements have been made at the suggestion of H.M.'s Inspector.

The following cases illustrate how the Day Schools are kept to the right class of scholars. They are all selected from the western division, as being the one most liable to imposition:—

Horseferry Road.—As the attendance had to be reduced to meet the Government requirements, the home of every child was visited. Some, as a result, were dismissed, and the really indigent scholars alone retained. *Moore Street.*—No scholar is admitted unless the School Board Visitor certifies the case to be one fitting for a free school. *Ogle Mews.*—Doubts having been expressed as to the class of scholars, I examined the School on September 30th. Out of 195 present, I had doubts of only 23 cases. Some of these were dismissed, but the bulk were found to be the children of charwomen or widows—their tidy appearance being due to gifts of clothing. *Portobello Road.*—No applicant is registered before its home is visited by the mistress. *Turk's Row.*—A printed form of application is filled up by the parent, subject to the certificate of the minister of St. Jude's. In this form the father's occupation and wages are inserted, as well as the number of children in family, and if the mother goes out to work.

And here a remark may be made, as it explains why some children in Day Schools strike a cursory visitor as doubtful. The natural fruits of our Clothing Clubs, and the rules of some Day Schools, which enforce cleanliness, partly accounts for the neatness of very many. But the love of finery which too many mothers exhibit accounts for other cases. Thus they deck their daughters with green, blue, or red feathers, and give them necklaces, and even crosses to wear. The cases which I pointed out last year may be counted by hundreds. The general excuse was, "Mother says I shall catch cold if I leave off my beads!"

The order of most Day Schools is fair. The more regular attendance of scholars is one cause of their recent general improvement. The fact, too, that in seventeen Schools the infants are taught in separate rooms has tended to this result.

Last year I examined 37 Day Schools. At these examinations 5,051 were present. All who had attained six years—3,261 in number—were tested. The general results were as follows:—Life of Christ, 480; reading, 1,336; writing, 1,869; spelling, 1,484; addition, 1,788; subtraction, 1,251; multiplication, 1,035; division, 826; multiplication table, 919; notation—3 figures, 1,373; four figures, 1,094.

are attached to 41 institutions. In addition to this, 17 other institutions are open two or more evenings, for social or religious work among the parents or scholars. Fifty-eight schools are thus open on week nights.

The number of scholars registered is 2,680. Of these, the average attendance is about 1,900. They are taught by 38 paid, and nearly 100 voluntary teachers. Twelve Night Schools, in fact, are taught solely by 74 volunteers. The 41 Night Schools may be thus divided:—25 Boys', 20 Girls', and 13 mixed; making 58 distinct Night Schools.

Last year *Pear Street* was opened thrice weekly as a Girls' Night School. *Price Street* was closed through the collapse of the old Committee, but was successfully re-opened under new managers. *Noel Street* was opened as a Night School for costermongers in November. About 25 attend twice weekly. Few could read, and fewer still could write. *Lower Park Road.*—A Girls' Night School was opened. It meets four times weekly, under an experienced teacher, and has a nightly average of 35.

As the committees of the Schools altogether closed on week nights are not prepared or able to incur any additional expense, the only way in which this evil can be met is by opening the School one evening either for Bible Classes or as a Children's Church. But what would be still better would be to devote one part of the evening to secular, and the remainder to Bible instruction—the secular preceding the religious. This would entail only a trifling expense, and the good done would be incalculable.

Though the order of most Night Schools is very good, yet boys have constantly to be expelled from Portland Town, Ernest Street, Clarence Street, and Giffin Street. In addition to this, some Schools suffer much from "outsiders." Thus, more than once, I have been kept waiting outside Giffin Street above ten minutes, because the master feared that the juvenile roughs outside might rush in. So the girls who are waiting outside for the opening of the School at Marigold Place are chased by boys amid indescribable hootings.

Many subsidiary plans are employed to attract children on week nights. As giving a bird's-eye view of what is being done, apart from secular instruction, a few may be referred to. Thus, *Broadway*, *Princes Street*, *Newport Street*, and *Lyham Road* hold Psalmody Classes one evening weekly; and *Price Street* has an excellent band, which is often engaged for school festivals. *Exeter Buildings* has just opened a lodging-house for homeless lads who attend the Night School. They pay one shilling weekly for a separate bed and the use of the kitchen. During winter, *Lower Park Road* gives a cup of coffee, &c., once weekly, to the Irish lads who flock there. *Pear Street*, *Eden Street*, *Bridge Street*, and *Lansdown Place* hold a Children's Service one night weekly. *Bell Street* and *Church Place* give Lectures every alternate Wednesday. The 17 *Bands of Hope* attract large numbers, especially on public nights, when many parents are induced to attend.

INDUSTRIAL CLASSES

are held in seven Boys' Schools. The united number is 120. Wood-chopping, paper-bag making, printing, carpentry, and tailoring are taught in these classes. About 1,500 girls are taught needlework and knitting in 35 institutions. Of these classes 10 meet in the evening. If ladies would offer their services, such classes might be held one evening weekly; and many Schools now closed at that time might be beneficially occupied.

SANITARY.

As favourably affecting the health of our scholars, the following improvements in buildings may be reported:—*Perkins' Rents.*—The roof and skylight of infants' room was elevated about four feet last year. Brook Street.—This School was removed to *Eden Street.* With about the same superficial area, the ceiling is considerably loftier, and it is much better lighted. *Lancaster Street.*—This School abuts on stables and fish-curers. By the filling up of crevices, and the constant use of disinfectants, by Agent's advice, the many odours which were once unbearable are now rarely perceptible. *Giffin Street.*—This building was very dirty and dingy. On the renewal of the lease it was painted and whitewashed, and has now that cheerful aspect which as much conduces to health as good ventilation. *Horseferry Road.*—The roof was broken in several places—in fact was dangerous. The room, too, was often flooded after heavy rain. Last autumn it was rebuilt. *Butler's Place.*—This School was commenced in a very dirty chapel in Arnold's Place. It was last year recommenced in a building formerly used as a Ragged School. Thoroughly repaired and painted, it is a very cheerful building, with a much larger area, including a class room, which was built for that purpose. *Walker Street.*—The north wall was in so dangerous a state that the district surveyor ordered it to be rebuilt.

BANKS AND CLOTHING CLUBS.

In the west and south there are thirty-seven Penny or Farthing Banks, two Provident Clubs, five Coal Clubs, and twenty-six Clothing Clubs. This gives a total of seventy clubs, all of which practically teach habits of thrift. If a Clothing Club were attached to every Needlework Class, it would prove very useful, and hence I press its establishment on all the conductors of such classes.

PARENTS' MEETINGS,

either in the form of Fathers' Clubs and Mothers' Meetings, or of Mission Services, are held by thirty-eight institutions. The six *Fathers' Clubs* have a united membership of 900. The twenty-six *Mothers' Meetings* attract about 450 very poor women at every meeting.

Of these Mission Services, mostly known as *Ragged Churches*, there are forty. The aggregate attendance is about 1,750, the bulk of whom are females.

Other means of usefulness might be referred to, such as seventeen *Bands of Hope*, with their 1,600 enrolled members; two *Pure Literature Societies*,

to counteract the terrible effects of thieves' magazines; five *Dorcas Societies*, to help mothers in the hour of trial; and two *Boys' Homes*, to help them on their entrance into life. They are all in a healthy state, and are doing a good social and, indirectly, a good religious work.

It only remains to add a few instances where my advice proved useful last year.

1. *Redcross Street.*—The lease of these premises expired last summer. As the institution only included a Sunday Night School and a Band of Hope, and was much in debt, the Committee decided to close the School. Agent met the Committee and at once advised that an application be made to the Rev. W. Curling for the use of Victoria Place School on Sunday evenings and one week night. Both committees acceeded to this suggestion.

2. *Price Street.*—The committee of this School retired and closed the school last June. In concert with the energetic master, a new committee was re-organised, the premises re-rented, and the Night School re-opened in October. The School now meets five times weekly, instead of four times. A Sunday Night School, attended by about seventy elder boys and girls, was also commenced at my suggestion.

3. *Butler's Place.*—This Day School was in such a disorganised state that it was entirely closed for some months. Removed to new premises and re-opened. Under a new teacher, aided by Agent's advice, the School is now a model Day School.

4. *Lancaster Street.*—For nearly eighteen years Agent had endeavoured to get needlework taught, but the late mistress always resisted. The new and most efficient teacher has not only acceded to this suggestion, but has established a Clothing Club. The sanitary state of the building has also much improved through the adoption of Agent's advice.

5. *Portland Town.*—By Agent's advice a new master was appointed last autumn. As a result the attendance has trebled. A Sunday Morning School has also been opened.

6. *Ernest Street.*—The Boys' Night School collapsed through the inefficiency of the master. The committee were doubtful about re-opening it; but, by Agent's advice, this School was re-opened in October under an experienced master. Though the attendance is not large, yet they are nearly all of the same wild type as when Ragged Schools were first organised.

Conclusion.

On a review of the state of Ragged Schools in the west and south, it is satisfactory to find that they show every sign of that growth in agency which is the surest proof of health. For example, in the three years which preceded the formation of the London School Board, there were 118 extensions, or 39 yearly. During the past three years there have been 115 such extensions, or a yearly average of 38¼. Last year alone there were 40 such extensions; and, though some old operations, as might have been anticipated, have collapsed during the past three years, yet 516 operations are still carried on.

As showing the nature of the new operations, it may be stated that 81 out of 115 commenced during the past three years, are either social or missionary. It is in these branches of Christian labour that the future work of Ragged Schools will be mainly found; for in these departments, which mere secular instruction cannot possibly reach, there still remains a great work to be done. In fact, it only requires a sufficient staff of earnest voluntary labourers to cover the whole of London with those Gospel agencies which, while they fit men for the life which now is, are essential to that eternal life which is to come.

January, 1874.

Children's Page.

THE RAGGED SCHOLAR WHO BECAME A MINISTER.

THE reports of Ragged Schools show how much the children of the rich have done to help their poor little brothers and sisters. Thus the last Report of the Ragged School Union contains the following pleasing item: "Collected by a little boy and a little girl, £2."

We are sure that such gifts are never forgotten by Him who once sat tired and thirsty by Jacob's well. For He notices every cup of cold water given to His lambs.

Such gifts have helped many poor boys and girls up the first step of the ladder of life. Of these nearly 200 are Ragged School teachers, some once with no earthly friend but the teacher who won their hearts for Jesus.

From an Irish Ragged School we glean the following instance of a ragged scholar who became a successful minister of Christ. On the wild western coast of Ireland, a little boy was gathering weed and shell-fish one summer's evening about twenty years ago. He lost his footing, and fell so severely as to be lame for life. His father was blind, the support of the family lay upon the mother, and as the famine was only just disappearing the times were hard.

The boy, whose family was Roman Catholic, had attended the Ragged School, where he showed great ability and industry. It was proposed that as, owing to his lameness, he was unfit for hard labour, he should prepare to be a teacher. He took a high place at a training school, and received an appointment as master in Kingstown. "I was then living," he wrote, "in a semi-careless, unsaved condition. About the beginning of 1865 it pleased the Lord to give me salvation through trust in Christ."

Taking a mission school in Dublin, he seized "many opportunities to speak to the poor people in the houses and garrets. I always gave two or three hours every evening to the work of visiting, and it pleased

the Lord to bring some from darkness to His blessed light." His next appointment was to a private school in England. He then went to Memphis in Tennessee, United States; he was there ordained as a minister of the Baptist Church, and was soon appointed a professor in a southern college. Ill health broke him down, and after vain pursuit of a climate that would stay his disease, he lay down to die at Colorado Springs. Yet not without rally, and hope of being able to start for Ireland, "and to preach Christ" in the May of this year.

His work, however, for Christ, was done, and the little Irish boy lies among the pines in the shadows of the Rocky Mountains.

We hope, dear young friends, this case—one out of many—will incite you, not only to give to, but to pray for, Ragged Schools. For prayer is never so dear to Jesus as when it springs warm from the heart of the young. S. A.

Hints for Teachers.

WEEK-DAY PREPARATION.

It is, unhappily, not uncommon to notice Sunday School teachers turning over their Bibles in the class in search of a haphazard subject. Such conduct leads to the inference that they do not comprehend the great work they have undertaken. And at least they cannot echo the language of Elihu, when he took Job and his three friends into his extempore Bible-class (Job xxxii. 18), "I am *full* of matter."

Such teachers being empty themselves, send their scholars empty away; and it is too probable that their classes will feel the hour thus spent to be the most dreary in the week.

Others, however, do prepare their subject most conscientiously, and would no more think of coming to their class without a well-digested lesson than they would enter it without prior prayer. But then they put off the consideration of the subject selected till Saturday evening, when tired with their week's work, and so get into a semi-fever whilst digging for an outline or searching for illustrations. To such we commend the following anecdote, related by the late Rev. J. Cooke. He says:—

"Very soon after I was settled at Maidenhead, three texts struck me in succession, after the duties of the Sabbath were over. I said to myself, 'Ah, that will do for next Lord's day morning; and that for the afternoon; and that for the evening.' I was much engaged with preaching and visiting for several days, and not till Saturday did I sit down to arrange my matter for the Sabbath. The three texts were quite gone from me: all Saturday, till very late at night, I laboured to recover them, but in vain. Sabbath morning came, and I could think of nothing. The time of service drew on, and in fact I went to meeting unable to fix my mind on any text. I entered the pulpit, the people sang, I prayed, still as unable to say what I should preach from as any

of my hearers. During the second singing I opened the Bible almost in despair; a passage struck me—I was carried through.

"On reaching my room, I threw myself on my knees, covered with shame and confusion. From that day I resolved 'to grind when the wind blew.' Since that time, whenever a text opens itself to my mind, I note it down; and I have, perhaps, hundreds of sketches I never used, and never may. Preaching I consider to be my special business; and having been enabled to keep this in view, everything turns to sermons. Whether in company, travelling, walking, or in the fields, or whatever incidents arise, I find all bring the word of God to my mind, and turn to some account in reference to my work."

We would advise every Ragged School teacher to choose his subject on Monday if he would be well prepared for the coming Sunday. *Note* every explanation which lights up the topic selected, as well as every illustration, as it occurs in every-day life, which bears on it—and that day by day. Read every work which is accessible, whether in the shape of explanation or illustration—more especially if it refers to Eastern manners and customs. A thoroughly good outline should then be prepared, in which the subject is considered in all its practical bearings.

By a plan like this, regularly carried out, the most obtuse or fidgety scholar cannot fail to be interested; for he will see that his teacher is really in earnest, and not giving to God what cost neither time nor prayer. QUARTUS.

ARE YOU EXPLICIT?

I WAS travelling one day to W——, in my Sunday School work, and in trying to follow the directions given me for going "across lots," so as to shorten my walk, became confused and lost the way. Coming to a boy picking strawberries, I asked him to set me right. Giving a flirt with his hand, but hardly loking up, he said, "You see that house?" Yes. "Well, go right on till you come to it, and then *take one of them roads there*, and you'll go straight to W——."

At another time I had been exploring a neighbourhood, giving notice of a meeting, and found myself at sunset in a deep thickly-wooded valley, where a few Swede families had built their log cabins. There was no direct road to the place where I was to pass the night, so a little Swede girl volunteered to put me in a path which wound through the ravines and along the hill-sides directly to the house I wished to reach. She piloted me a quarter of a mile, and then showing me a very narrow way, and pointing out landmarks ahead, closed her directions by saying with much emphasis, "You follow that path there, *you must not turn off anywhere.*"

The speeches and the teachings I often hear in Sunday School remind me of these two incidents. I thought, from the boy's remark, that *all* of "them roads there" led to W——. But they didn't. Only one was the right one. And I have been afraid that children, in these you-must-be-good-boys-and-girls exhortations, get a very poor perception, if any at all, of what should be impressed upon each heart—"*You follow that road there, you must not turn off anywhere!*"

Only one way leads through the strait gate into the kingdom. May my tongue ever bear the cry, JESUS THE WAY!—*Sunday School World.*

ULTIMATE SUCCESS.

A YOUNG minister wrote to a correspondent—"I have been able to bring many, many souls to Christ."

The recipient of this information greatly rejoiced in it; but at the same time was led to ponder "How many equally earnest Christians spend many years of their lives in efforts to do good to others, without its being given them thus to know for certain that they have brought even a single soul to Christ." Are these, therefore, necessarily to feel discouraged, or as if their labour was in vain in the Lord? Surely not. For the Lord loves faith. And more faith is requisite for persevering service, in the absence of visible fruit, than for the performance of duty amid the "joy of harvest." The Apostle Thomas did well to adore his visible Lord—yet received for reply the words—"Blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed."

It is not always, if indeed often, that the reaper overtakes the sower here, but hereafter "the sower and the reaper shall rejoice together." One of the greatest prophets exclaimed, "Who hath believed our report?" Another complained, "The word of the Lord was made a reproach unto me, and a derision daily."

But the Lord seeth not as men see. They only regard visible success. But God knows how greatly final and visible successes of the Gospel are indebted to forgotten pioneers or to the secret prayers of many faithful workers who may have died, long ago, in ignorance of the really effective, ultimate fruit of their endeavours. Christians are animated to be "always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

Correspondence.

SCHOLARS IN RAGGED DAY SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the Ragged School Union Magazine.

DEAR SIR,—I read with much interest a letter in your Magazine (p. 44) entitled, "Class of Scholars in Ragged Schools." May I suggest that, unless in towns where compulsory education is *strongly enforced*, it would not answer to make a rule that no child be admitted unless its parents filled up a certain paper? for many of the parents are so degraded that they do not care whether their children attend school or not, and they would certainly take no *trouble* in the matter. A case that occurred in our school is before my mind. We went to see why a little boy, about six years of age, had been absent from the Day School, and calling at his wretched home, we found him and his

little brother absolutely without any clothes, his mother having pawned them for drink. Would such a woman care to fill up a paper and take it to a clergyman to certify? This little boy and his three sisters had come to our Sunday School of their own accord, their parents not caring where they went so that they were out of their way.

I am quite aware that we must try and keep our Ragged Schools for the right class of children, but would it not be sad to punish a child by not receiving it because its parent earned a great deal of money and spent it in drink? Then, if *we make rules*, we must strictly *keep* them, or we should soon be thought very unjust.

I would suggest that all workers in Ragged Schools should try and impress on parents and scholars that they should aim at something higher than a Ragged School, and that no teacher should seem at all vexed when one in his class leaves for another school, but express pleasure that he is stepping higher on the social ladder.

I remain, dear Sir, yours sincerely,

A. H.

Ragged School Union.

THE monthly meeting of the Managing Committee was held on June 12th.

The receipts for May were reported to be £481 19s., and the payments to be £387 9s. In the receipts were included a donation of £100 from Sir R. W. Carden, and the collection at the annual meeting, which amounted to £45 11s.

Quarterly grants for June, amounting to £129 14s. 2d. were ordered to be paid to twenty-six institutions. Other payments amounting to £109 16s. 11d. were voted.

A grant of £12 per annum was voted towards a proposed Day School at Redhill, subject to the condition that a committee be formed.

A special grant of £10 towards the liquidation of debt, and of £5 towards the cleaning and painting Thrawl Street School, was voted.

A special grant of £40 was ordered to be paid to Morton Road School.

Applications for grants from Buross Street, Ernest Street, George Yard, Hatfield Street, Hertford and Menotti Street, were read, and will be considered at the next meeting.

Facts and Scraps.

GEORGE YARD, WHITECHAPEL.—A very interesting lecture was given on Electricity by Mr. Wise, assisted by Mr. Sharp. Many simple and beautiful experiments were performed, and the scholars wondered to see gas lighted, spirits set on fire, cannons fired off, and little figures made to dance, by the power of electricity. It is felt that every proper means must be used to draw the elder scholars of our schools from the low theatres, the penny gaffs, the idle corners of the streets, and the gamblers' ring. It is intended from time to time (if possible once a week) to bring before the scholars some subject which shall direct their thoughts to something better than the pernicious amusements and sensational literature of the day.

JACOB'S ISLAND.—A Band of Hope was commenced very successfully last month, at the Ragged School, in George Row; and on Friday evening, May 29th, its members were kindly entertained by some of the "Onward" Band of Hope members. The school has been under repair, and looked very neat and clean to what it used to be. Services are now held on Sunday evenings for adults.

KENTISH TOWN.—Mr. James, the superintendent of this Ragged School, was some time since laid by with an affection of the throat. At the suggestion of the scholars, as a thank-offering to the hospital which cured him, a box was placed in the school to receive their contributions. The sum of £1 12s. 1¾d. was raised and forwarded to the "Hospital for Diseases of the Throat." As many as 360 children of the Sunday, Day, and Evening Schools contributed.

KINGSLAND.—This Ragged School recently held its last Service of Song for the present season. The Prodigal Son was the subject. Miss Mercer presided at the pianoforte, Mr. Moon conducted, and Mr. Lidstone declaimed the prose passages. Mr. R. J. Curtis presided. At the close, a gold pencil-case was given to Miss Mercer, and an inkstand to Mr. Lidstone, besides which eight of the scholars received presents of books for good attendance at the rehearsals, and for giving replies to Scripture questions in the form of proofs from Scripture.

THE "FRIENDS" AND RAGGED SCHOOLS.—For some time past many members of the Society of Friends have personally aided Ragged Schools in Field Lane, Ratcliff, Peckham, &c. We are glad to find that they are about to extend their efforts in this direction. Thus, at a general conference held on Thursday evening, May 1st, the propriety of taking additional rooms for rough children was favourably considered, and the question, How to prepare Sunday scholars to become teachers, was discussed in the practical manner common to the people commonly called "Quakers."

SCHOOL BOARD AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—It was indicated (*ante* p. 119) that the London School Board had agreed to let their buildings for Sunday Schools. The following are the terms agreed on, namely:—2s. per head per annum for the use of a room or rooms during the morning or afternoon, and 2s. 6d. per head per annum for the use of similar

rooms during the evening, or the morning and evening, or the afternoon and evening, or the morning, afternoon, and evening."

SUNDAY SCHOOL CANVASS.—At the recent Convention of the Sunday School Union, the following important resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That in the opinion of this Convention the time has come when a new and universal canvass of London should be made to obtain new teachers, and to gather into Sunday Schools those children who are now outside; and that the Committee of the Sunday School Union be requested to take immediate steps to secure the co-operation of all evangelical Sunday Schools in the metropolis, so as to carry it out during the present year."

A BUTCHERS' TEA PARTY.—This festival of the journeyman butchers of the metropolis, invitation to which was given by Mr. Varley, an ex-butcher, took place at the Metropolitan Tabernacle. Fourteen hundred men were entertained at a substantial repast, of which joints of meat formed a conspicuous element. Some Christian butchers, who are superintended by an excellent master-butcher, are regular teachers at Church Place Ragged School, Paddington Green.

LEICESTER SQUARE SOUP KITCHEN.—During the past year 110,178 meals and 2,168 nights' lodgings were given to the destitute. 850 families were supplied with Christmas dinners, and during the "coal famine" thirty tons of coal were distributed.

Notices of Meetings.

CLARE MARKET.

The twenty-eighth annual meeting of the friends of the above schools was held on June 8, in the Parochial Schoolrooms, Stanhope Street; the Rev. R. T. Simpson, rector of St. Clement Danes, occupying the chair.

Mr. Thornell, the secretary, read the report, which stated that the progress and efficiency of the Boys' Day School had been materially affected by the action of the London School Board, who had compelled the parents of numbers of the boys to remove them from the Day School to the Board School, although hundreds of ragged and uncared-for children were daily running about the streets of the neighbourhood unnoticed by the School Board authorities. If this vexatious action of the School Board was continued, it would be a question with the committee whether they should not close the Boys' Day School altogether. In connection with the institution were Sunday, Day, and Evening Schools for boys and girls, Sewing Classes, Bible Classes, a Penny Bank, a Clothing Club, a Lending Library, &c. Through these various means 550 children were receiving a good secular and sound religious education; and 370 adults were being morally, socially, and spiritually benefited. The average attendance at the Boys' Day School during the year had been 173, and at the Night School 40. The average daily attendance at the Infant School was 96. A reunion of the old scholars

had taken place a few evenings since, when about 160 attended, the majority of whom were filling respectable positions in society, and the proceedings were of the most pleasing and encouraging character. The report concluded with a deep expression of regret on the part of the committee at the loss of the services of Mr. John Palmer, who had so ably filled the offices of superintendent and secretary for the last twenty years. The financial statement showed the total income for the year had been £204, while the expenditure had been £236.

The meeting was addressed by the Chairman, the Rev. Mr. Voules, Mr. Woods, the Rev. Mr. Lee, Mr. Ingham, and Mr. Curtis.

OLD FORD.

The anniversary meeting of this mission was held on June 8th, at the hall in Tredegar Road, Bow, under the chairmanship of the Rev. G. S. Driffield, M.A.

The report, which was read by the hon. secretary, Mr. A. Farnan, stated that the mission work was going on under the management of a committee, having the assistance of a missionary and Scripture reader. Prayer meetings and Divine service were held, and the Ragged School had the nucleus of a library, towards which contributions were requested. A branch of the mission is the "British Workman," which is "a public-house without the drink," and which affords to the members refreshments and the use of newspapers and periodicals. It also comprises a debating society, singing class, and exhibition of flowers.

The report was adopted and addresses were delivered by the Chairman, the Rev. G. M. M'Cree, Mr. R. C. Morgan, and Mr. Kirkham.

ST. GILES'S.

The twenty-ninth annual meeting of the National Refuges for the Homeless and Destitute was held on May 21st, in Exeter Hall; the Earl of Shaftesbury in the chair.

The report, read by the secretary, Mr. Williams, showed that during the year the family circles in the various homes, and on board the Chichester training-ship, had been increased from 700 to nearly 800 children. Of the total number of 632 boys in the Great Queen Street Refuge, 477 had been provided for in various ways, there being 155 left in the institution at the end of the year. The industrial work represented a money value of £1,217 17s. 7d. The report pointed to the success which had attended the work on the training-ship Chichester, 250 boys having been drafted into the Navy and Mercantile Marine out of a total of 481 on board. The committee contemplated an extension of the work in this direction, and to further that object the Government had lent them the Arethusa, a frigate which had accommodation for upwards of 300 boys. The Baroness Burdett-Coutts had promised to give £5,000 to defray a portion of the expenses which that scheme would entail. The total number of children admitted into the refuges up to the end of last year was 5,046, the maintenance of whom had absorbed a sum amounting to £22,114 19s. 7d.

Addresses in support of resolutions advocating the objects of the institution were delivered by the Earl of Chichester, Alderman Sir R. W. Carden, and others.

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION,

ESTABLISHED FOR THE SUPPORT OF

FREE SCHOOLS FOR THE DESTITUTE POOR.

OFFICE—1, EXETER HALL.

PRESIDENT.—THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G.
TREASURER.—R. C. L. BEVAN, Esq., Lombard Street.
HON. SOLICITOR.—E. JENNINGS, Esq.
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The following contributions have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union from the 20th May, 1874, to the 19th of June, 1874, inclusive :—

General Fund.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Albery, E., Esq.	2	2	0	Le Blanc, Mrs.	1	1	0
Battersbee, Mrs. E.	20	0	0	Lean, V. S., Esq.	1	1	0
Barnes, Theodore, Esq.	1	1	0	Mackay, J. M., Esq.	2	2	0
Blake, Miss	5	0	0	Macklin, Mrs.	2	2	0
Brookhouse, C. T., Esq.	1	1	0	Ogilvy, Thos., Esq.	2	0	0
Bull, Rev. A. H.	2	0	0	Paley, Mrs.	2	0	0
Cardon, Alderman Sir R. W.	100	0	0	Pittis, R., Esq.	5	0	0
Cole, Hon. A. H., M.P.	1	0	0	Reade, Mrs.	0	10	0
Cotsford, Mr. W. G.	0	10	0	Riddell, Miss H. B.	4	4	0
Denison, A., Esq.	2	2	0	Scott, Lady, of Abbotsford, per Baron von Streng	2	2	0
Eastwick, Capt.	5	5	0	Sadler, Miss	1	13	0
Ellice, Wm., Esq.	5	0	0	Silver, S. W., Esq.	1	1	0
Fortescue, Hon. D.	2	2	0	Simms, J., Esq.	1	1	0
Fortescue, Lady C.	1	1	0	Tate, R. C., Esq.	1	1	0
Fox, Miss E.	1	0	0	T. W.	0	10	6
F. V.	2	0	0	"Two Sisters," per Mrs. Frances Whitlaw	2	0	0
Gage, Viscount	2	0	0	Uwins, Rev. J. G.	1	1	0
Greenwood, Mrs.	1	1	0	Webb, W. H., Esq.	1	1	0
Hawkins, Miss J.	1	0	0	Williams, Mrs.	1	0	
Hope, Mrs. H. T.	5	5	0				
Hughes, W. Hughes, Esq.	1	1	0				
Lyvedon, Lady	1	1	0				

Special Fund.

Bruncr's Court.

Riddell, Miss H. B.	2	2	0

"Chichester."

Scott, Lady, of Abbotsford	2	2	0

King Edward Street.

Waldegrave, Hon. Miss H. (Children's Treat)	2	0	0

Cripples' Home.

McAll, Mrs.	2	10	0

"Homeless and Destitute."

Scott, Lady, of Abbotsford	1	0	0

Little Saffron Hill.

Riddell, Miss H. B.	2	2	0

Weary Workers.

Arnot, Miss	0	10	6	Martin, Lady	2	0	0
Lingham, Mrs. and Miss Souter	1	0	0	Paley, Mrs.	1	0	0
Macklin, Mrs.	1	1	0	Riddell, Miss H. B.	2	2	0

Excursion Fund.

Arden, Hon. Miss	5	0	0	Gibson, Mrs. W. G.	2	2	0
Agnew, Miss M.	0	10	0	Green, John, Esq.	1	0	0
Airey, Miss J.	1	0	0	Hughes, W. Hughes, Esq.	0	10	0
Anderdon, J. H., Esq.	5	0	0	Martin, Lady	5	0	0
Arnot, Miss	0	10	6	Mackay, J. M., Esq.	1	1	0
A. A. R.	0	5	0	McAll, Mrs.	2	10	0
A Mite from a poor old Widow	0	2	6	McKinn, Miss R. V.	1	0	0
A Friend	3	0	0	Muller, Mrs. M.	0	2	4
Baker, Sir George, Bart.	1	0	0	M. G.	0	2	0
Barclay, J. G., Esq.	10	0	0	Payne, C., Esq.	0	2	6
Boetefeur, Mrs.	2	2	0	Pittis, R., Esq.	2	10	0
Bevan, R. C. L.	5	0	0	Prince, Mrs.	5	0	0
Bodkin, Miss	1	0	0	Quick, Mrs. T. N.	1	0	0
Cardon, Sir R. W.	5	5	0	Riddell, Miss	1	10	0
Chavasse, Mrs.	2	0	0	Stephenson, Sir R. M.	1	1	0
Cooke, Wm., Esq.	10	0	0	Sandham, Mrs.	0	5	0
Cure, Capel, Esq.	2	0	0	Sperling, John, Esq.	3	3	0
Ducie, Earl	2	0	0	T. J. M.	5	0	0
Dalrymple, E., Esq.	20	0	0	Westminster, His Grace the Duke of	2	0	0
Erle, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm.	5	0	0	Wilkinson, the Misses	0	4	0
Eastwicke, Capt.	1	1	0	Winter, Thos. L. M., Esq.	1	1	0
E. C.	0	2	6	Whiting, Mr. H.	0	5	0
F. S. S.	0	2	0	W. H. S.	0	5	0

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The above arrangement applies only to personal consultations. Letters of advice as usual. Address—COOMBE LODGE, PECKHAM; and Medicine and Instructions will be forwarded without delay.

New Patients should send full statements of their cases (see page 32 of Mr. Congreve's treatise), and Patients who have written before should always name the date of their last letter.

REMARKALBE CASE of A LADY at SOUTHEND.

The following letter from the patient's husband will best relate the benefits she received—(the name of the lady is Mrs. SAML. HAWTREE, of SOUTHEND, ESSEX):—

"Six years ago my wife complained of failing health. Her lungs were much affected. During the first four years of her illness she was attended at different times by four physicians, but became much weaker. *The muscles of the arms wasted nearly all away. Her breathing became so difficult, especially at night, that persons in the street could hear her, and no sleep could be got in the house.*

"At the end of the four years, when at her worst, the physician told me '*her lungs were like a honeycomb,*' and that she was '*past human aid.*' She was sinking, and so weak I could not think of bringing her to you, I therefore procured your medicine through the chemist at Rochford. She took it at bed-time, and *for the first time in twelve months I was not once disturbed with the distressing sounds.* She persevered for six months, and was so altered in appearance and health that *those only who had known her, before and after, could believe the extraordinary change she had undergone.* Winter brought on some symptoms of the old complaint, but the Balsam has again removed it. By the blessing of God *it has raised her from the very verge of the grave.*

"I may add that before taking your medicine the expectoration was very bad, and in the first month she brought up large quantities of the most corrupt matter, but after this it ceased; also before taking it she was unable to get out at all, but *but now she can walk and ride well for miles in the open air—even in winter.*

"You are at liberty to make any use of this letter.

"I am, dear sir, yours faithfully, SAML. HAWTREE."

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